

**Mansfield Public Schools**  
**Four Schools Renovation Project Site Visit**  
**Lt. Eleazer Davis Elementary School and Israel Loring Elementary School**  
**Friday, April 17, 2009**

Thank you for your interest and participation in our Building Committee site visit to Davis and Loring Elementary Schools. These schools were selected to give observers an opportunity to see schools during a regular school day which are approximately the same size as our projected pk-4 enrollment and have either been recently built or renovated.

Please share your observations regarding each building in the following areas.

	<b>Lt. Eleazer Davis Elementary</b>	<b>Israel Loring Elementary</b>
Building	<p>I liked how the building was made to look like several smaller buildings. I also thought the idea of having a focal point (the tower) so children could orient themselves outside and in was interesting.</p> <p>Very inviting – entryway prominent and easy to access. Architecturally pleasing. LOVED the ceramic tiles throughout the building that the children made – a very personal touch.</p> <p>Beautiful building and kept clean. All areas bright.</p> <p>No building security.</p> <p>Although gym can be locked off from the rest of the building, the library and cafeteria did not have the same security. This would be critical as those areas seem to be used a lot.</p> <p>Lower floors felt closed in due to no light from outside sources.</p>	<p>Very large and had a boxy feel. I did like the interior courtyard.</p> <p>“Dining Room” should be adequately cooled (if not with A/C than with wall mounted fans). Exhaust fans should go to outside. Having a stage in this area was a good placement for this space. Round tables in this area are a good idea, especially if they can be moved out of the area for special events.</p> <p>Building is not secured. Intruders have access to all hallways and common areas via the main door.</p> <p>Hallways seemed small, especially during transition times.</p> <p>Not as thoughtfully designed as the first school. Still a well maintained building.</p>
Grounds	<p>The on-site nature area was nicely done.</p> <p>Well-kept and landscaped. They were putting in new bark mulch when we visited.</p>	<p>I thought the grounds were quite small.</p> <p>Recess area seemed very “odd” with black top area elevated and away from playscape and field.</p>

<p>Like the “cattail science area” outside for nature exploration. Eco area is appropriate for outdoor education. The natural pond as a science item was nice and I think would be an effective teaching element.</p>	<p>Teachers mentioned how lower area was not a place the children could play in the winter. Very close to road and is a concern. The interior court yard was very attractive and appeared to be a well used area as there were many small groups using it. It probably could have used more benches. The overall property size seemed much too small.</p>	<p>Did not seem sufficient for the size of the school. A bit of a hike for visitors! Parking is definitely separate. There didn't appear to be enough as we were parking on a driveway when we arrived. Parking seemed insufficient for a school that size. Particularly during events like concerts or open houses.</p>	<p>Parking limited due to grounds. There should be a clear area for visitors. Not enough parking for a building that size. It was clear that the limited size of the property cut into parking. Did not seem sufficient for size of school. Fine.</p> <p>It seemed rather small and segmented. Recess area limited by grounds. Difficult to supervise because of the different levels. Cafeteria proximity should be a priority. Too small for a school this size.</p> <p>We really didn't have an opportunity to observe the main outdoor play area. I loved the easy access from the kindergarten rooms to the playground (own doors). Recess areas were separated. Students playing in bus drop-off area during blacktop-only recess. This is a concern. I did not see enough of it to comment.</p> <p>Check-In/Check-Out system should be reviewed for all buildings.</p> <p>I didn't like how isolated the gym area was. I did like the pod concept. Excellent floor plan with “cluster/pod” groupings. Liked the multi-grade groupings, as opposed to only grouped by grade level. The color coding on the floor and in the actual pods was also a creative idea. Good idea NOT to put kindergarten on the second floor. Lockers were much more ideal for elementary children (low and wide). Liked how classrooms had a door between them. Building setup in pods. This is an interesting concept but separates grade level teachers from collaborating</p> <p>It seemed very spread out and confusing. Loved the entry way with the staircase as you walked in. Seemed more traditional in its set up. Didn't like the grade level “hallways”. Preferred the pod set up at Davis. Interesting idea about the stage in the cafeteria. Liked how classrooms had a door between them. Building is not color coded or designated. Difficult to know where you are in the building. Although most classes are in the same areas, it could be difficult for a visitor who does not have an escort. Interesting that the school library was not as the center</p>
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<p>in areas that are close by.</p> <p>The shared space at the center of each pod was great! That is a wonderful idea that is invaluable. It provides a flexible space for computer access, pull outs, performances, multi-class projects, guest interns/speakers/etc., and a social gathering place. From the teachers we spoke to, they were very pleased to have it available.</p>	<p>of the school; it was still accessible, but I liked that in many of the previous schools, the library served as a central hub whereas in this school it was not.</p>
<p><b>Space Allocation / Utilization</b></p> <p>The common space in each pod (usually used for computers).</p> <p>Great idea to have a “shared” common room which could be used for various purposes.</p> <p>As previously said, the shared space at the center of each pod was great. The open shared space was better than the enclosed space; the enclosed space with full walls did not lend itself to shared space as it was limited space (no spillover room to the hall) and the open space was easier to monitor and felt bigger/friendlier.</p>	<p>It seemed as if the hallways were very cluttered and crowded. Not enough storage (?). Top hallway a bit of useless (and dangerous) space. Closets have now become offices.</p>
<p><b>Lighting</b></p>	<p>Bright in a classroom areas, but corridors seemed to be dark because there was no outside light.</p> <p>The hallways and classrooms were well lit with natural and artificial light.</p>
<p><b>Heating/Cooling</b></p>	<p>AC on second floor.</p> <p>Consistent temperature throughout building.</p>
<p><b>Energy Consumption</b></p>	<p>Upper floors, some hallways seemed very warm. Upper classrooms were stuffy.</p> <p>Consistent temperature throughout building. The network closets were not properly air-conditioning and were much too warm which will lead to premature breakage of network equipment.</p>

Classroom Design	<p>Classrooms seemed to lack in-room storage. Kindergarten rooms had a big bathroom, which was good, but better would be two bathrooms/stalls, even if they were shared between two rooms. Cubbies were in the K classroom were separate from classroom space-a good idea, but not easy to see children in that space.</p> <p>Kindergartens had cubbies in the classroom instead of lockers. This was a problem for students who brought snow into the classroom and then had to work on the floor.</p>	<p>I liked the K classroom design, with large bathroom and in room space for cubbies. Could have had more storage. Not much tile area, wall to wall carpet limited ability to change classroom configuration.</p> <p>Loved the “island” work areas in the kindergarten rooms. Think other grades would have benefited from that space/design too.</p> <p>Art room was one of a kind, of course! Other rooms seemed a bit drab and not as inviting or unique.</p> <p>Classrooms seemed large enough, but did not seem to have enough computer furniture in them.</p>
Class Equipment	<p>Some, but not all, rooms had Smart Boards. Each room had a projector and interactive whiteboard.</p>	<p>Wireless implementation was a bit haphazard. Wireless was added after renovations and consisted of Apple Airports stuck in various places. Seemed a bit lacking.</p> <p>Desks and tables seemed appropriate for classes. Only some rooms had projectors and interactive white boards; this was unfortunately as this is now standard equipment for a modern classroom.</p>
Building Architecture / Materials	<p>Beautiful. Again, loved the tiles. By creating patterns in the brick outside of the building, it gave a distinctive look and gave it a more creative appearance. The use of floor tiles and colors to note the different pods was too subtle and not very noticeable; the concept is good but needed to be more deliberate and obvious. Also, the use of student artwork in the halls (drawings, posters, tiles, etc.) gave it a friendly and kid-centered feel.</p>	<p>Storage seemed to be a bit of an issue in the classrooms. They seemed cluttered. The outside of the building was fairly plain and uninviting. However, the inside was more creative.</p>
Drop Off/Pick Up	<p>I liked how the parent drop off and the bus areas had separate traffic areas and entrances but came to the same central lobby area. Seemed well planned.</p> <p>Buses travel directly between the two parking lots causing pedestrians to walk over the bus road. This should be avoided if possible.</p> <p>Nice that parent drop off/pick up and bus drop off/pick up were in very different locations.</p>	<p>Drop Off and Pick Up were issues in this building and must be addressed through our project.</p> <p>Nice that parent drop off/pickup and bus drop off/pick up were in very different locations.</p>

Special Subjects Classrooms A/M/PE	<p>The gym was very large and intimidating. Great gym!!! Excellent idea to have a separate lock-out entry way for after school programs. "Wall net" in gym would make it difficult for two classes.</p> <p>Specials areas are affected by the schedule. This school has a reduced amount of special time compared to Mansfield.</p> <p>The gymnasium seemed much larger and fancier than was needed. They referenced community use so that was the rationale, but seemed too much.</p>	<p>Gym seemed sufficient, but with only the "wall net" in between, would make it difficult for two classes to happen at once.</p> <p>Although architecturally appealing, the art room seemed to be out of place. Circular rooms cause problems with furniture. Music rooms are in the middle of academic hallways and are a problem due to the sound.</p>
Support Services Classrooms		<p>These did not seem very well thought out-I observed many rooms designed for different purposes being used for various support services.</p> <p>Previously a music room. Large room makes it difficult for individualized instruction.</p>
Food Service	<p>Round tables/café seating was nice.</p> <p>I liked how the teacher's dining area was close to the children's dining area and the office suite</p> <p>Liked the round tables with fewer number of children. Seemed organized and sufficient.</p>	<p>The stage was a nice feature.</p> <p>There were early lunch waves (10:30) to fit in all of the students. I think that seems a little early.</p> <p>This was a particularly nice cafeteria; they referred to it as a dining room and it did have a more formal feel to it that seemed nicer.</p>
Library/Media	<p>I really liked the idea of the library/media center being considered the "heart" of the school, with a central, prominent location. The story time/presentation area was nice, especially how it extended to an outdoor area. Also, teacher resource section seemed well thought out and extensive.</p> <p>Liked the theater-like seating in the library and outside the library for literacy activities. Liked the library desk in the middle to divide up the space.</p> <p>Library seemed small for the school size. Reading area was nice, although the outside area presents security risks.</p>	<p>Liked the low bookshelves to see across the whole room and between bookshelves. Liked the divided areas in the library for several possible classrooms at once.</p> <p>Library seemed to have an appropriate setup, but technology did not keep pace with the 10 year old building.</p> <p>The library at the peripheral made it seem less significant.</p>
Computer Lab		<p>Computer lab did not have a separate area for technology repair work. Computers need to be setup so that teacher can see work being done on all computers with an easy scan.</p>

	<p>was woven together to make it work, but it suffered from being an add-on. Space was cramped. Computer lab attached to library in an open format. This is not appropriate.</p> <p>Not enough true instructional labs for students. Fairly small; could not put a student on every computer.</p>	<p>Nice size in that it had enough computers on the outside for every student and it also had a central area.</p>
Multi-Purpose Rooms	<p>Excellent ideas-to have shared common room and conference rooms for a variety of purposes. Computers moved from classrooms into multipurpose areas to create minilabs. Minilabs could not be used without supervision. Multi-purpose rooms are open to hallways and noise of classrooms and are not appropriate for reading groups. The idea of multi-purpose rooms for different areas of the building is great, especially for a grade level to use. These areas must be big enough to hold an entire grade level for an activity.</p> <p>As previously noted, the shared space per pod was great.</p>	<p>I actually like the integration of a stage/cafeteria set up in this school. This building seemed to have fewer rooms to share between classes.</p>
Office	<p>Liked the visitor badge check in procedure, but not sure it was very personal.</p> <p>Office bright and welcoming.</p> <p>Did not have easy access for monitoring entry (security).</p>	<p>The office seemed quite small for a school of this size. Office did not have room to grow.</p> <p>Did not have easy access for monitoring entry (security).</p>
Nursing	<p>Nice big space in office area.</p> <p>Student access to the nurse is through the main office. This can be problematic.</p>	<p>Nursing suite had exam rooms, but no "waiting" area for students to be seen.</p>
Other Areas of Note	<p>This school had the pod design woven into the classroom areas and had many areas of common storage. The pod design presented a couple of ideas that were intriguing. The rear area of each pod was usually tables and had computers. If the table had wireless laptops, and there was a storage cart where they could go after use, you then have a very flexible space and a lab area for several classrooms.</p> <p>Additionally if you wanted you could put ONE Smart Board in the space. For use by a couple of classrooms</p>	<p>Separate data closet off the library with large room A/C unit. No separate tech space or office. Intermediate data closet did not have UPS protection. Onsite access granted by custodial staff. Not much wireless.</p> <p>Liked the "naming" of the rooms to be more community-oriented. Dining room as opposed to lunch room, etc.</p>

rather than one per room. In each of the pods was a networked printer, which is an idea that we have recognized as a good goal. Having networked high quality laser printers that serve several classrooms is a cheaper long term solution. The pod structure offered a place to do that.

#### Additional Comments

This school featured lots of common storage areas instead of individual space. It seemed like a good idea, but what stuck my eye was how cluttered and messy each space was. Every space that was shared was like that. I began to wonder if it was a case of if everybody owns it that nobody does. We suffered a little from that and have developed routines to keep common areas clear. Common storage offers consolidation of floor space to allow more flexible designs of the instructional spaces. However, it appears that it comes with a cost. One of the observations was a small data closet that controlled the computer network was used for lots of other things, paper storage, umbrellas, coats, all stuffed in on the sides of the data rack. It was an example of not segregating out the uses and I was taken aback by that clutter in a critical closet.

I liked the idea of a shared space for each group of classrooms but I felt as if there was some difficulty defining that area. I also really liked the idea of having a teacher's planning room as well as a work room in each pod area.

Very impressed with the set up and planning of this school.

This school was notable in that it was a picture like some of the others where technology was added as part of the building, but then it was obvious that local funding had not kept up with current trends in technology. In many places there were TV's in place but not connected. VCR/DVD trays were there but no units. I did not see much in the way of video head ends. The wireless and classroom projection systems were limited and were clearly added on in a way that was not part of the original design but add on's as time has gone on. Their building was about the same age as the major renovation at MMS. Much of the base technology was the same, but we have done a better job of moving with the net generation of technology in a thoughtful logical way. The fact that any building or renovation project will provide funds for an infusion of technology at the best level of that time, make the school a shining example for a couple of years. This should not be seen as a "spike" in technology that can be done and ignored because it was "new" last year. Support and growth has to be supported with yearly budgets or you get into these peak years, which slowly decline and then you wait for another peak year. To some extent all of the schools presented this picture, of not "keeping up" after the building phase. This was the most obvious.

There were many areas of the building that were being used for a purpose other than that for which the room had been designed (i.e., the Music Room becoming a suite for Sp. Ed. Services, etc.). It seemed as there was insufficient storage or storage areas were being used for another purpose as there tended to be a lot of

	<p>clutter in the hallways</p> <p>All conference rooms should have windows! Felt this school lacked planning from an educator's viewpoint.</p>
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**Mansfield Public Schools**  
**Four Schools Renovation Project Site Visit**  
**Colchester Elementary School & Jack Jackter School**  
**Monday, March 30, 2009**

Thank you for your interest and participation in our Building Committee site visit to Colchester Elementary and Jack Jackter Schools. These schools were selected to give observers an opportunity to see schools during a regular school day which are approximately the same size as our projected pk-4 enrollment and have either been recently built or renovated.

Please share your observations regarding each building in the following areas.

	<b>Colchester Elementary</b>	<b>Jack Jackter</b>
Building	<p>Nice, but BIG</p> <p>The building had many things we should incorporate in our design. It also lacked many things we should have. i.e., it used ceramic tile in the bathrooms but did not tile up the walls therefore the sheetrock is already falling apart.</p> <p>Building was beautiful, but hallways were narrow. Heated floors in the pre-school were ideal, they would be great in K-2 also. Rugs throughout do not seem like a good idea and I would prefer to see tile (for cleanliness and allergies). I did not like the locked pre-school wing, felt like a prison. If safety is the issue, why did they have parents entering and exiting the wing directly (leaving teachers and IA's responsible) bypassing the office? Ceiling skylights were great, library was very impressive.</p> <p>Beautiful building, beautifully maintained.</p> <p>Beautiful complex.</p> <p>Enormous, well built, clean, organized.</p> <p>A/C a plus.</p> <p>All maintenance available all day.</p> <p>The natural sky lighting in the hub and the library was wonderful. It really gave the school an open feeling</p>	<p>Does it cost more to design and build a building in that shape? I like the media center being the hub. Older, not as aesthetically pleasing on the inside as it is on the outside. Building looked more like a middle school to me.</p> <p>Again, the building was beautiful and it felt comfortable. Kids seemed to have all of the space and physical resources they needed. The gym was very impressive.</p> <p>Adequate building.</p> <p>Nicely renovated.</p> <p>A/C a plus.</p> <p>All maintenance on duty all day.</p> <p>5 custodians work at night to clean when children are gone.</p> <p>This was a nice building, but coming after the first school, it paled in comparison. While the first school felt open and new with the natural lighting and new design, in contrast this school felt more enclosed and drab.</p>

		and the natural light creates a positive mood because even though you are inside, it feels in part like you are outside. I imagine it also might help reduce the cost of hallway lights during the day, though I don't know that.	
Grounds	Nice Nice, but I didn't walk around the outside of the school to get a good feel for the grounds. Serviceable. Nice! Needs some new shrubs, etc. Fair. All exterior of building is responsibility of Parks and Recreation. The large overhead shelter in the front of the building was very nice as I imagine they can use that when they have large groups of students waiting for a bus. Have a large covered outside area is also inviting to parents as it welcomes them to come out of their cars while waiting for their kids and encourages staff to also be outside.	Fine I liked the courtyard in the middle to the school. I didn't walk the grounds, so I can't comment much further. Serviceable. Needs some new shrubs, etc. All exterior of is maintained by Parks and Recreation. The grounds were well maintained and clean. It gave a good first impression as we approached the building as the grounds indicated pride in the facility.	
Parking	The parking area with the busses was a disaster. Teachers crossing in between busses to enter building. These areas have to be separate. Adequate	No problem. Adequate Parking seemed closer, more available and more convenient than at Colchester Elementary. Seemed adequate. Much smaller but seems to be ample parking for the size of the building. This school had a good amount of parking and I imagine does a fine job of accommodating parent and evening events. The large parking lot on the side was well positioned for evening use of the cafeteria and gym.	
Recess Area	Great Good There were three for the different age groups which were nice, but I would rather have seen one larger unit	Great OK I didn't see the recess area. Did not observe – not sure if they had recess at this	

<p>that was accessible for all children, such as a “Boundless Playground”.</p> <p>Adequate.</p> <p>OK</p> <p>3 separate play areas divided by grades.</p> <p>Parent and students were surveyed.</p> <p>I did not see the recess area closely.</p>	<p>level.</p> <p>OK</p> <p>Sheds house the game bats and balls to reduce clutter.</p> <p>I did not see the recess area closely.</p>
<p><b>School Procedures</b></p> <p>VERY organized</p> <p>Procedures at both schools seemed to have children's safety at the forefront. I thought parents for all grades should have to enter and exit through the main office – including pre-K.</p> <p>Things seemed to run smoothly – the larger size necessitated increased energy and time spent on security.</p> <p>Due to the large facility and number of students, the procedures are very thorough and clearly stated. The procedures seem somewhat rigid but I do understand that they need to be due to the large complex and number of students and staff.</p> <p>Bus arrival was well organized and had a natural flow.</p> <p>Also, the fact that visitors to the school have to flow through the actual office space was an interesting security idea.</p>	<p>Again, VERY organized</p> <p>Things seemed to run smoothly – the larger size necessitated increased energy and time spent on security.</p> <p>Due to the large facility and number of students, the procedures are very thorough and clearly stated. The procedures seem somewhat rigid but I do understand that they need to be due to the large complex and number of students and staff.</p> <p>Again, the office was located such that it could play a central role in granting access to the facility. This certainly helps with monitoring guest access.</p>
<p><b>Floor Plan</b></p>	<p>The shape did not allow for light in all areas (computer labs, etc.)</p> <p>I found this floor plan more confusing.</p> <p>Floor plan was interesting. I think it worked as well as it could considering they added on to an older building.</p> <p>I did feel a little lost at times and some of the classes seemed very far from the front of the school. The design of classrooms around the courtyard was very nice.</p> <p>A bit disjunct.</p> <p>Complicated and doesn't seem as systematic as the other school.</p> <p>Hallways inadequate.</p> <p>Retro fitted but functional floor plan.</p>

<p>out of sight of staff. Not that our age kids would fight but you just have to think of the shenanigans that go on in our bathrooms to understand that line of sight is important for behavior. I also wondered about the curved spaces in an emergency lockdown. Are you better being able to see straight down a hallway to signal to a colleague or to scan to see no children were in the hall? Coordination of communication in an emergency with such a big school would have to be practiced and those walkie talkies better be rock solid in operation and on every administrator's hip.</p> <p>All wings divided by grades and color coded. One level with natural lighting.</p> <p>Circle with library as hub.</p> <p>The main hub with wings coming off it seemed to be an efficient design as shared resources were in the hub so all wings had reasonable access to those shared resources.</p>	<p>Two levels which allowed for more square footage for less money: one set of footings/foundation for 2 levels. Natural lighting on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.</p> <p>It was a confusing floor plan and we got lost a number of times as each hallway looked the same and key locations were scattered. We missed the color coordination of the first facility as the colors helped guide location at the first facility.</p>
<p><b>Space Allocation / Utilization</b></p> <p>I was very impressed with the all purpose rooms in both schools. Great idea and allows for so many different activities to go on during the day as opposed to having to wait until afterschool or bumping out the PE class.</p> <p>Hallways are narrower, but the classrooms seem smaller, too. I wonder if a grade one and a grade 2 computer lab are necessary.</p> <p>The mechanical rooms were large in order to accommodate the heating and cooling systems. We should design our systems to be roof mounted to save space for instruction. Along the same line the custodial closets are dangerously small for safe use.</p> <p>Space was allocated in a thoughtful way on each wing so students wouldn't have to go too far to receive services.</p> <p>Generally good, although a number of rooms got little use due to staffing especially in areas of specials and support services.</p> <p>Large enough for all aspects of school except for professional development as mentioned by principal.</p>	<p>Classrooms seemed larger, or was it just my imagination?</p> <p>This school actually seemed to have more space than they needed or used (gym was huge, many rooms only used once a week like the room off the library they film the new in). I think more multipurpose rooms would be cost effective.</p> <p>Generally good, but again some rooms seemed to get little use.</p> <p>Very good.</p> <p>Classroom size adequate.</p> <p>No concerns.</p>

	The school doesn't seem as warm and cozy as I would prefer but it is a beautiful facility. Good use of space, many open or empty rooms. Classroom size adequate. No concerns.	Fine The lighting system is already outdated and should be improved upon. Natural lighting from the skylights was one of the nicest features of the school. Although it was rainy and cloudy the day we visited, the skylights added a lot of light. Lots of natural light – nice! Fine! Lots of natural light in hallways, large windows in classrooms. Good amount of natural lighting. Windows in all classrooms. Some classes had to find ways to block lighting to use smart boards. As I previously stated, the natural sky lighting was great.	I thought the natural light coming into the hallways provided a healthy, bright, energizing atmosphere. The design of windows made the rooms look less institutional. Lots of natural light will make everyone feel better in the winter. Fine In comparison, this school seemed darker, but it was dreary outside. The school seemed to be adequately lit within. Not as much natural light – hallways were rather dark. Not as light and open as other school. Probably due to the age of building. Most classes were able to have windows. This school felt dark and enclosed.
Heating/Cooling	OK	Unfortunate they had to use oil. The heating system is outdated. If we choose to A/C the school we should investigate an absorption unit to go with a co-gen unit if possible. The absolute best feature of this school was the heated floors in the pre-k rooms. Great planning and probably would benefit pre-k through 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade. Heating was noisy.	Heat seemed adequate. Did not observe. OK All the same. Forced hot air, AC in entire building, heat a bit noisy. All the same. Having air-conditioning throughout the building is a great idea. It must help a great deal with productivity and on-task-time during the warmer months. Also, they referenced that they were thoughtful about indoor air quality by maintaining sufficient airflow and the air

Energy Consumption	<p>conditioning probably helps with reducing mold.</p> <p>Energy consumption is way better than our existing schools, but can be significantly improved using today's technology.</p> <p>I don't think I can speak to this.</p> <p>Did not observe.</p> <p>Seems to be state-of-the art. I would like to see even more "green" school features for a new building.</p> <p>Built to energy code 2006.</p> <p>It was interesting to see a number of small (inefficient) refrigerators and microwaves. They might want to go Mansfield's route and consolidate with fewer but energy efficient fridges.</p>	<p>Did not observe.</p> <p>Doesn't have as many energy consumption features (i.e., sky lights, etc.) as other school.</p> <p>No observations.</p> <p>Rooms looked larger than normal tome because of the storage spaces being above the floor. Good idea, wonder how accessible it is for the teachers and kids.</p> <p>Didn't see much of the classrooms.</p> <p>The classrooms looked average with most of the necessities covered.</p> <p>Adequate.</p> <p>Fine!</p> <p>Traditional.</p>	<p>The classrooms again seemed to have most of the necessities covered.</p> <p>Well-equipped.</p> <p>Looks good!</p> <p>The classrooms felt larger because they did not have as much storage cabinets as the first school. At the first school, the high number of storage cabinets made the rooms feel smaller.</p>
Class Equipment			

	<p>location. This was unfortunate. One teacher I spoke with said she likes the SMART Board, but because it is not placed in a useful location, it makes it much more difficult for her to use it.</p>	<p><b>Building Architecture / Materials</b></p> <p>Building has character. Like all the colors. It seemed very child-friendly.</p> <p>I thought the architecture was very functional. In our school we will need to use more recycled materials. The building was nice with average materials (cinder block) but the way it was decorated made it stand out (kids painting the ABC's and 1 2 3's on the blocks as you walk the hall). The architecture of the library was fantastic. I did not like the rug that was used throughout.</p> <p>Beautiful building – the design with a central hub worked well to keep everything within a reasonable distance and gave a sense of having a ‘center’ to the school.</p> <p>Fine!</p>	<p>The architecture on the outside was great – I couldn't tell that it was an older building that was added on to and remodeled. The building looks new on the outside and the materials all blend well. The inside is also integrated very nicely and the library is very nice. Because it had been added on to, it didn't have the architectural ‘integrity’ of Colchester Elementary – some wings were fairly remote from each other.</p> <p>Fine!</p> <p>Painted brick and block.</p> <p>The exterior entrance was nice, but the inside of the building felt drab.</p>	<p>The use of carpet in the hallways was very curious. Knowing what our tile floors look like on a muddy day, I could not imagine all that dirt being ground in to the carpet being able to be cleaned every day nor that the carpet would wear not quickly. I think that they must have had large Zamboni like carpet cleaners that they run every night. We have small groups doing work sprawled in the hallways often, I can't see that happening on wet dirty carpet.</p> <p>Creative/colorful/tile and carpet.</p> <p>More like an early childhood center.</p> <p>It had a professional and quality appearance.</p>	<p>The traffic between parent drop off, people parking and busses coming in was a problem. The traffic was backed up out on the road.</p> <p>Well-structured.</p> <p>I was not present.</p> <p>While it went smoothly, I think in a town such as Mansfield, there would be many more parents picking</p>	<p>Parent drop off was fine. In front of building away from the busses on the side. Bus drop off was very smooth. The kids did have to wait on the bus for 15 min or so to enable the waves of busses to empty. I wonder how the drivers feel about monitoring during those 15 min. I imagine in the winter there would be some issues.</p> <p>Well-structured.</p>
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<p>up and dropping off (especially in response to bus rides longer than they are used to currently) and I think the Colchester set-up would not be adequate here. Yikes! Very organized but way too many buses and students....</p> <p>It seemed that the walk to/from the buses for either door was long and uncovered. If weather was bad it could be an adventure.</p> <p>Designated areas and waiting areas for parents, a.m. bus routine many children to get off the buses. Organized parents are given tickets to verify they are authorized to pick-up students then proceed to the large educational room/cafeteria to wait. Dismissal is out to the playground.</p> <p>Seemed like they put a lot of thought into this process and as a result have a very smooth system. The design of the building seemed to take this into account by accounting for specific entrance points for different types of users.</p>	<p>I was not present. Did not observe. Yikes! Very organized but way too many buses and students....</p> <p>Parent pick-up is secured through a large educational room/auditorium. Parent pick-up is dismissed first. Did not observe.</p>
<p><b>Special Subjects</b> <b>Classrooms A/M/PE</b></p>	<p>The gym seemed too large and intimidating for primary aged children. The curtain separating PE classes is a bad idea.</p> <p>The gym was very nice and seemed to have good sound proofing. The music and art rooms were very nice too.</p> <p>The classrooms themselves were good-sized and well-equipped. Unfortunately, their programs were understaffed and minimal in terms of instructional time in the arts. Colchester students only receive music once per week (Mansfield students have music twice per week). I did not have a chance to speak with the music teacher here about other aspects of the program.</p> <p>OK! I like our amount of specials.</p> <p>Gym classes 2 classes are taught at the same time with a curtain between them, 2x week, we currently have 3x week, music and art only 1x week.</p> <p>Gym was large and could be divided.</p> <p>These seemed to be appropriate designed.</p>

	<p>into music classes during which some students perform small group pieces. Other students do participate in some musical performances at the monthly 'town meeting' assemblies. There are no all-grade level performances due to the large number of students.</p> <p>If we were to build one large building, the number of students able to participate in performance experiences would fall dramatically. In addition, the drastic reduction in students' opportunities to participate in whole-school activities would be a big change for us here in Mansfield. I believe the reduced opportunities for arts experiences and whole-school or community experiences would profoundly change the school culture that has been established in the elementary schools in Mansfield.</p>
	<p>OK! I like our amount of specials.</p> <p>The fact that the seats in the gym could not be pushed back and the lower levels had to be covered in padding a concession to renovation I am sure, but it looked very dangerous to me.</p> <p>Gym was large.</p> <p>Bleachers were well made and secured to the risers.</p> <p>Bleachers appeared easy to clean.</p> <p>Art room too small after construction.</p> <p>Band room was very large and was the other half of cafeteria and could be used for a concert.</p> <p>These seemed to be appropriate designed.</p>
	<p>The social worker and psychologist seemed to be less integrated, but other supportive classrooms were integrated throughout the school well.</p> <p>Did not observe.</p> <p>We certainly have much more which makes us more able to address proactively the need of all of our students.</p> <p>There were several located throughout the building.</p>
Food Service	The café was set up very wisely. The tables were

<p>large for such young kids. Did not observe.</p> <p>I really didn't get a good look at this but Beth did. I do like the set up of the kitchen but think it must be overwhelming for younger students.</p> <p>Cafeteria state of the art 2 areas for food lines, round folding tables, also used as stage area and parent pickup area.</p> <p>One of the best designed kitchens.</p> <p>Excellent resources.</p> <p>Washer and dryer-front load.</p> <p>4 staff 2 serving lines with full dish room.</p> <p>Breakfast service: 80.</p> <p>Cafeteria accom.-could accom. 240 students.</p> <p>All students came in a buddy system.</p> <p>These seemed to be appropriate designed.</p> <p>I did not tour the food service area.</p>	<p>conducive to appropriate socializing. This could be moved quickly and easily. The lighting in the café was great. I liked to access to outside area from the café. Again the space was very large and loud with so many kids using it at once. One food service station had been closed, "due to budget cuts" as our young guide noted. I think the kids would benefit from all 3 stations being open to lessen lines and waiting time.</p> <p>Did not observe.</p> <p>I really didn't get a good look at this but Beth did. I do like the set up of the kitchen but think it must be overwhelming for younger students.</p> <p>Fantastic kitchen and appliances.</p> <p>Nice lunch menu – 4 choices.</p> <p>5 staff members: 2 servers, 2 cashiers and a snack bar.</p> <p>Full dish room.</p> <p>350 meals served plus snacks.</p> <p>Each lunch wave had about 200 students who came directly from recess to lunch.</p> <p>No custodian, only 2 teachers, 2 aides.</p> <p>Students clean-up their own spills.</p> <p>Students serve academic detention during lunch.</p> <p>Students get gold award at lunch.</p> <p>These seemed to be appropriate designed.</p> <p>I did not tour the food service area.</p>	<p>OK</p> <p>Great library space that set the cozy atmosphere for the school. Plenty of space and seemed to incorporate many of the students ideas throughout.</p> <p>Adequate, 'lounge' areas for reading was popular with students</p> <p>Nice and a little bit warmer atmosphere than other school even though it is not as new a facility. I love the side rooms. I love the video-taping media room.</p> <p>In both schools the video head end, data head end and phone head end were brought into a dedicated space. It seemed that they opted for a system that called for</p>
Library/Media	<p>Very attractive room. I like the story-telling room.</p> <p>Beautiful library with wonderful shelves designed with small children in mind. Books were at eye level for the children and there was plenty of space to find the right atmosphere to read. All of the equipment seemed to be state of the art.</p> <p>Attractive space.</p> <p>Beautiful but not very cozy and warm. I love the side rooms. Sky light was very noisy especially with rain falling on it.</p> <p>In both schools the video head end, data head end and phone head end were brought into a dedicated space. It seemed that they opted for a system that called for</p>	<p>Fabulous</p> <p>Nice and a little bit warmer atmosphere than other school even though it is not as new a facility. I love the side rooms. I love the video-taping media room.</p> <p>In both schools the video head end, data head end and phone head end were brought into a dedicated space. It seemed that they opted for a system that called for</p>

<p>video to be inserted by a staff member (not sure why we would do it this way, given things like discovery streaming) but it was set up with the ability for the projector to deliver cable TV (through a head end). In most spaces it was adequate space and but the ability to look at the front of the rack (where lights tell you the status of equipment) and to work at the rear of the rack where cabling comes in was very limited in all rack areas. Options for further growth, or for expansion of equipment was limited. All data rack areas were air conditioned with ceiling or wall mounted area units (like MMS or EOS).</p> <p>Large spacious area with separate media area.</p> <p>Impressive/engaging.</p> <p>Having the library at the center of the facility was a great design idea. It is a great way to emphasize the central importance of literacy.</p>	<p>video to be inserted by a staff member (not sure why we would do it this way, given things like discovery streaming) but it was set up with the ability for the projector to deliver cable TV (through a head end). In most spaces it was adequate space and but the ability to look at the front of the rack (where lights tell you the status of equipment) and to work at the rear of the rack where cabling comes in was very limited in all rack areas. Options for further growth, or for expansion of equipment was limited. All data rack areas were air conditioned with ceiling or wall mounted area units (like MMS or EOS).</p> <p>Allows for research maybe small for size of school.</p> <p>The library seemed to have a good number of resources and was pretty sizeable.</p>
<p>Computer Lab</p> <p>I like that it's in the library/media center.</p> <p>Plenty of labs and computers to meet the needs of all students.</p> <p>Appeared adequate.</p> <p>Nice! I love having it adjacent to library.</p> <p>Cannot deviate from the "horseshoe" design because of electrical and data wiring set in floor.</p> <p>Carpeting in computer labs is less than ideal as it produces static electricity in dry weather. Computers in rows, small room, no center space for projects.</p> <p>Each wing has their own area of computers.</p> <p>Grade level labs placed in each wing.</p> <p>One in the computer lab.</p> <p>"Little people" keyboards.</p>	<p>Seemed very sterile could use some windows.</p> <p>OK, but the stations were in rows.</p> <p>Again, plenty of labs and computers to meet the needs of all students.</p> <p>Appeared adequate.</p> <p>Nice! I love having it adjacent to library.</p> <p>Computers in rows, small room, no center space for projects.</p> <p>Computer labs were dispersed throughout the building more as a resource.</p> <p>This varied; some labs were better equipped and designed than others. It was dependent on which lab.</p> <p>Not well designed. The computers were in rows such that the teacher can not see screens and can not easily move between students. Also, the network connections and outlets are in the floor, which they shared has been a problem (not flexible, tripping over cables, dust and dirt).</p>
Multi-Purpose	Great

Rooms	<p>The multi-purpose rooms seemed small and there weren't many of them. The cafeteria/stage area was large for a cafeteria, but small and inadequate for a theatre space. Chairs could not be stored beneath the stage because it was not set high enough.</p> <p>This school lacked a large space (other than the gym or cafeteria) where some large groups activities could take place.</p> <p>The stage (or 'platform') was very small considering the number of students in the school. It would only accommodate one, possible two, classes.</p> <p>Yikes! It is way too large for a cafeteria especially for little children. However, the lunch room wave was very organized. I am not in favor of using a microphone to gain the attention of students but it worked for the staff trying to gain the attention of the students.</p> <p>Lots of open rooms throughout the building.</p> <p>There were 2 large teaching spaces.</p> <p>No concerns.</p>	<p>A great idea!</p> <p>There seemed to be plenty of space in the multipurpose rooms. I think they planned well and met most, if not all, of their needs.</p> <p>The inclusion of a large 'flexible space' in this building that would accommodate, say, a grade level, was a big plus and would certainly help to create more 'community' opportunities for students.</p> <p>Yikes! It is way too large for a cafeteria especially for little children.</p> <p>It was curious that in the renovation, the connections for AV and data in lunch area were mounted low on the wall, not high on the wall for a mounted TV or a flat screen. The thought must be that you roll in a TV/Video on a cart when you need it, and there were several locations for it but not to have power and jacks high on the wall was curious.</p> <p>There appeared to be 2 large teaching spaces that would allow the school to get together.</p> <p>No concerns.</p> <p>I liked how the front of the building was in complete view of the office. There were too many doors it was confusing where to exit.</p> <p>The foyer and office were very welcoming and easily accessible from the parking lot. The office seemed very open to the front of the building and the staff engaged with us as soon as we entered.</p> <p>Adequate.</p> <p>Beautiful! It was very business-like.</p> <p>I wondered why there was no electronic message board for parents.</p> <p>Pleasant.</p> <p>Wasted hallway space at the entrance of building.</p> <p>Clean and professional design. Also, having visitors cycle through was interesting.</p> <p>Tight security.</p> <p>Pleasant and functional.</p> <p>Having the incoming visitors cycle through the office because the entrance leads directly through the office is an interesting design.</p>
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Nursing	<p>I did not see the nurses office.</p> <p>Did not observe.</p> <p>Great facility!</p> <p>Open room with 3 cots.</p> <p>1.5 nurses.</p> <p>I did not tour the nursing area.</p>	<p>Nurses office was great – almost like a real clinic. At the time it didn't seem like they needed as much room as they have, but I'm sure they will grow into it.</p> <p>Did not observe</p> <p>Didn't see the facility.</p> <p>1.5 nurses.</p> <p>I did not tour the nursing area.</p> <p>I would like to see a gym with alternative equipment built in. Like rock walls and ropes.</p> <p>Beautiful conference room.</p> <p>Faculty collaborate in grade level groups and then break-up into smaller units to work on projects.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>I would like to see a gym with alternative equipment built in. Like rock walls and ropes.</p> <p>Beautiful conference room.</p> <p>Faculty collaborate in grade level groups and then break-up into smaller units to work on projects.</p> <p>None.</p> <p><b>Staff Workrooms:</b> There were data jacks for the networked copier but no additional jacks available for a computer to be used in the room. No wireless.</p> <p><b>Main Data/Phone/Video Head:</b> Located in a small room behind a “Story Telling Room”. IT staff indicated that if done again it would have been more thoughtful to have a direct entrance as you can't get in to check/service equipment while class is using room.</p> <p><b>Data Closets:</b> Had dedicated air conditioning units.</p> <p><b>VOIP:</b> School was not wired for voice over IP (VOIP) phone traffic just analog. No analog phones near doorways. They were located around the rooms. Carpeting throughout the entire school.</p> <p>There was security during staff during construction.</p> <p>Faculty collaborate in grade level groups and then break-up into smaller units to work on projects.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>The facility is beautiful and the furniture and equipment is very desirable. As I mentioned above, the building didn't have a warm and cozy atmosphere. I believe this is due to the open floor plan and vastness of the school.</p> <p>I enjoyed the perspective that the building Principal, Supt., and Facilities Mgr. were able to bring. My take aways from the process were:</p> <p>(1) There was a large concern about security and access to areas where children were by vendors</p> <p>This school definitely was not as new and equipped with some of the state-of-the-art equipment but the renovations certainly were more than adequate. Once again the school is very large and not as warm as I am use to with a small neighborhood school. However, I do believe we can make a large facility warm and inviting.</p> <p>By comparison, this facility was less impressive than the first school. It felt enclosed because of the amount of interior space that lacked notable natural lighting. It</p>
Other Areas of Note	<p>I felt the hallways in this school were very narrow. The lockers were nice and wide to accommodate students needs.</p> <p>Beautiful conference room.</p> <p><b>Staff Workrooms:</b> There were data jacks for the networked copier but no additional jacks available for a computer to be used in the room. No wireless.</p> <p><b>Main Data/Phone/Video Head:</b> Located in a small room behind a “Story Telling Room”. IT staff indicated that if done again it would have been more thoughtful to have a direct entrance as you can't get in to check/service equipment while class is using room.</p> <p><b>Data Closets:</b> Had dedicated air conditioning units.</p> <p><b>VOIP:</b> School was not wired for voice over IP (VOIP) phone traffic just analog. No analog phones near doorways. They were located around the rooms. Carpeting throughout the entire school.</p> <p>There was security during staff during construction.</p> <p>Faculty collaborate in grade level groups and then break-up into smaller units to work on projects.</p> <p>None.</p>	
Additional Comments		

during the construction phase. A major headache for sure but I think that underlying it was a continuing concern about safety and security, to which the Pre-school wing was restricted. It seemed that when you increase your size you have to double and redouble your efforts to keep kids safe and secure, especially the little ones. You have to be extra vigilant, you have to design, implement and perfect systems that keep kids safe, keep kids from being inadvertently unattended, etc. Parent pick-ups, drop offs and the flow of those events have to be designed with care both in an architectural sense and a building team sense.

(2) The fact that the school was so large that an evening event could not hold parking for all parents was interesting to note. I think that it would cause a natural split in schools, PK1 Music concert, and 2,3,4 concert for example and unless carefully designed you would have traffic and parking problems for a host of school events, Fun Fairs, Book Fairs, Field Days, first day of school

(3) The Tech Coordinator and while the Principal and Supt. Talked about a school that was designed around a philosophical or programmatic base with teachers giving input on colors and design features. In contrast the Tech Coordinator alluded to a building committee that relied very much on outside consultants for decision making and input about technology. His opinion was that the building committee ended up exerting control over decision on technology and not recognizing valid input from tech staff. Examples such as setting up computer rooms in rows rather than in a horseshoe (so that the electrical and data conduit laid in the floor in a concrete channel, and now there is not other way to arrange the room) or accepting low bids on contracted work and finding vendors that did not follow through with work or meet quality standards were a problem. The school system found that they came to like a particular brand of projector because of

was also a more confusing design for moving through the building as it lacked the hub and wings design.

reliability, a different brand was chosen by low bid and has proved to be unreliable. It seemed that the Building Committee did not include, or consult with the local staff in the process very much, just went with what the consultants said.

(4) It was also clear in both buildings that while there was adequate dollars to build or renovate, there were a lack of funds to continue and sustain the building at the high level of design. In each school there were built-in spaces and areas where the lack of on-going budget support showed a lack of sustained follow through. Lots of places for computers especially at JJ, but the spaces were empty. There was some wireless at CES but the whole building was not wireless. I think that they were really struggling to live up to the design of the buildings they moved into.

(5) I have thought a lot about the implications for school culture. In some ways the blending of three veteran staffs will not be without challenge. The vestiges of separate existence will be there both the good and the bad. It will take care, active planning, thought implementation, a set of new traditions, and work.

On the other hand it will be a chance to reset and re-track the educational philosophy, procedures and pattern of learning for the district, perhaps for the better part of 25 years. We are wrestling with establishing common procedures and common approaches to learning so we are all on the same page and to see if what we have chosen as approaches in Math and Reading are effective. What does it mean when everyone who is teaching that way at that grade level is in one hallway? Is it easier in an administrative sense to keep everybody on the same page to support or clarify for a struggling teacher, or to foster collegial sharing from excellent teachers? Do you have more flexibility to place certain kids with certain teachers? Do you have better ways to break up math groups or science groups when the kids can go across the hall?

What would we look like 5 years from now if we did this? Could we deal more effectively with the endemic problem of being on the same page rather than being in three separate buildings as we are now?

This is beyond the square footage of rooms, or boxes on the wall or buses in the lot. It is an opportunity and a challenge if we go this way, it will be a significant philosophical switch for us and the community. It is thought provoking at the deepest level, and I had not really wrapped my brain around that significance until the Colchester administrators started speaking to it.

Example of size ratio first grade wing had 10 classes and 2 more of a ½ grades.

\$26 Million

It was clear that they put a lot of thought into how building design could fit instructional design. This was an impressive facility.

**Mansfield Public Schools**  
**Four Schools Renovation Project Site Visit**  
**Nayaug Elementary, Glastonbury**  
**Friday, May 15, 2009**

Thank you for your interest and participation in our Building Committee site visit to Nayaug Elementary School in Glastonbury. These schools were selected to give observers an opportunity to see schools during a regular school day which are approximately the same size as our projected pk-4 enrollment and have either been recently built or renovated.

Please share your observations regarding each building in the following areas.

		<b>Nayaug Elementary School</b>
<b>Building</b>		
	Beautiful	LOVED it! It did not seem like a big school with the classrooms in a core area. Beautiful building with good layout. Really liked the oversized hallways by the office and gym for exhibits. Very inviting.
Grounds	Good Nice	The building was clean and well kept. The outside design was not remarkable as it lacked distinctive design like some of the other buildings (there was no distinctive feature; it seemed to be designed to be very functional, which is fine, but as a result it was less remarkable). This fit the overall sense of the building; everything seemed to be functional and working, but not inspiring. More so than any of the other schools we visited, this school felt like one large collection of classrooms and from the outside looked a little like a box store or warehouse. A/C a plus, wide hallways. Many glass cabinets to display student work. One custodian day, 3 custodians night to clean. Lavs in K-3 classrooms, windows built-in creatively high in art room for light and leave wall space. All carpeted building. Suspended-coiled extension cords. Acoustic decking used to allow for high ceilings. Love the entrance. Excellent for greeting the public and for school-wide events. Very inviting! No flat roof! Very attractive on the outside as well as inside.

	<p>Beautiful and serene.</p> <p>Well maintained and groomed. Loved the openness of the school grounds.</p> <p>The lack of trees (other than relatively small trees) on the school grounds made it less appealing.</p> <p>However, the woods surrounding the back side of the school were very nice and must look great in the fall.</p> <p>All exterior of building is responsibility of Parks and Recreation, large outdoor space.</p> <p>Bus loading in back of building/sequester for safety.</p> <p>Spacious and country like. Plants, shrubs and trees are growing.</p> <p>Beautiful.</p>
Parking	<p>Good</p> <p>Nice</p> <p>Parking is separated, but continues to be a problem for full school functions. Downward lighting poles should be included and a cleared area should be considered for a Life Star landing during winter when the snow is on the field (for a critical emergency).</p> <p>More than adequate.</p> <p>More than sufficient, I think.</p> <p>This was one of the few schools we saw that seemed to have sufficient amount of parking (the other school with a good amount of parking was Jack Jackter). A school this size needs a good amount of parking and they met this need well.</p> <p>Parents park in front.</p> <p>Faculty/staff on side.</p> <p>K-parents and bus/vans on side where Pre-K and K class is.</p> <p>Large parking areas. Parent/visitor paring area is separate from staff.</p> <p>I was a little late, I didn't pay enough attention to this. I know in the Colchester school the parking lot and the drop off for buses was one and the same. Not good, teachers would walk between buses to enter school, could lose a few that way. Areas need to be away from each other.</p> <p>It was nice to have lots of parking.</p>
Recess Area	<p>OK</p> <p>Nice, but not too sure I'd want an access road going between it and the school.</p> <p>Seemed small for the size of the school.</p> <p>Great large areas.</p> <p>Loved the separate, more appropriate play area for the pre-k's and k's. Very spread out. Also, like the from-the-classroom access to the playground for some of the rooms.</p> <p>I did not get to see much of this so I can't speak to it.</p> <p>Parent and students were surveyed.</p> <p>Fine! However, the plays cape is small and limited for 650+ students.</p> <p>Wow!</p> <p>I would have liked to seen more recess equipment. They just had a playground and soccer nets.</p>

School Procedures

Bus arrival seemed well organized and appropriate. The separate and long road for buses worked well to

	<p>be able to bring in a lot of buses at once. All doors secured after initial school day begins. Security person at front door.</p>
Floor Plan	<p>I was concerned with the buses leaving while students were still unloading and walking in to school.</p> <p>The way the classroom hallways turned at right angles gave the illusion that the school was smaller than it appeared. I did not like the very long corridors of Colchester Elementary.</p> <p>Floor layout seemed appropriate for the school. The front-to-back hallway was great.</p> <p>I liked how grade levels were together but there were not enough smaller rooms for sped or small group instruction.</p> <p>Liked the separate locations of grade levels – having a pre-K/K area would be desirable.</p> <p>Simple and functional. Not inspiring like some of the other buildings, but it was easy to get around the building.</p> <p>Two levels, pleasant.</p> <p>Square.</p> <p>Fine! More spaces needed upstairs for conference rooms; lounge, etc. The stairways are not conducive for younger students – very high up when you look down the stairwell.</p> <p>Very traditional, ok, kids don't have the opportunity to interact with different grade levels, which is good in terms of the little ones feeling comfortable, but not great for a community atmosphere. The front hallway was fabulous! The height and width was not only great looking but as the Principal indicated a great space for events and activities.</p> <p>The floor plan was very nice. I liked the wide hallways and centralized feeling it had. The grades were not too far apart from one another.</p>
Space Allocation / Utilization	<p>A separate lunch room is nice.</p> <p>Itinerant employees is not appropriate. Each teacher should have their own teaching space whether they are part time or not.</p> <p>The layout of the building seemed OK. Not much extra space.</p> <p>Nice-sized gym...but maybe a small gym also could be useful. Also, there definitely didn't seem to be enough shared space (community rooms) and small meeting areas.</p> <p>They appeared to completely lack common space for pods / teams / pull outs. There was no sense that certain areas of the building were together as smaller sub-groups; but rather just felt like one very large school (technically the grade levels were grouped together by wing / floor). Some classrooms did have folding walls to make larger rooms.</p> <p>Classroom size adequate 89K sqft. Cost \$212.00/sqft-2005</p> <p>Good! I thought the art room was a bit small for a new building. I don't know if they have enough closet spaces.</p> <p>They needed a couple of all purpose rooms.</p>
Lighting	<p>Very bright, lot of natural light.</p> <p>Good</p>

	<p>Ends of hallways have windows on each floor bringing natural light into the corridors. This prevents these areas from being completely closed in.</p> <p>Adequate.</p>
Fine.	<p>The lighting was generally pretty good in that the building was generally well lit. They incorporated natural light in some parts of the building which made it feel more open and natural. I wished they had done more of that as other parts of the building had very little natural light. The light fixtures were interesting in that they were along the sides of the hallways instead of in the middle. I'm not sure which is better, but it was different than the other schools.</p>
Excellent-energy efficient.	<p>We will use more outside lighting in a new school.</p>
Good amount of natural lighting.	<p>Windows in all classrooms.</p>
Windows in all classrooms.	<p>Some classes had to find ways to block lighting to use smart boards.</p>
Fine!	<p>I would like to see skylights on the second floor. Were they there?</p>
	<p>I am realizing how important natural light is to the school environment (at least in my opinion). The natural lighting in the Colchester hallways was great. This school did not have that. However, the offset lights in the hallways did have a nice, not institutional feel to them. I think the more light we have, especially natural light, the healthier the environment for staff and kids alike.</p>
	<p>It was nice to have lots of windows and light.</p>
Air conditioning is great for warm days and summer school.	<p>Air conditioning is great for warm days and summer school.</p>
Worked well; they have a 4 pipe system so that they easily transition from heat to cooling.	<p>Worked well; they have a 4 pipe system so that they easily transition from heat to cooling.</p>
Boilers were the best at the time.	<p>Boilers were the best at the time. The entire school is air conditioned, we should do it also.</p>
All the same.	<p>All the same.</p>
Where is the savings if the whole building is air conditioned? It was very warm upstairs	<p>Where is the savings if the whole building is air conditioned? It was very warm upstairs</p>
Air conditioning is great.	<p>Air conditioning is great.</p>
Way less than our present schools but can be improved upon.	<p>Way less than our present schools but can be improved upon.</p>
Built to energy code 2006.	<p>Built to energy code 2006.</p>
They seemed brighter and bigger than other schools we visited.	<p>They seemed brighter and bigger than other schools we visited. I'm still not sure I'd like that much carpeting in the classrooms, though.</p>
Carpet should not be considered for full and permanent installation.	<p>Carpet should not be considered for full and permanent installation. Area rugs are movable based upon teachers in the classrooms. All classroom setups should be the same based upon the program. Special attention to prevent the projectors from bouncing around from the floor above.</p>
The cabinets and counter along the windows were smaller.	<p>The cabinets and counter along the windows were smaller. Not as much storage as the new school in Colchester (I liked what they had better).</p>
Good amount of storage, it seemed.	<p>Good amount of storage, it seemed. Liked the low counters for easy student access. The art room was unbelievable! Also, liked the shared room/storage area between the pre-K/K rooms. I also liked the cubby areas in these rooms – the lower wall separating the area from the classroom, but teachers can easily monitor this area. It was big enough for children to move and provided appropriate storage for young</p>

	<p>children.</p> <p>The classrooms lacked Smart Boards / projectors; they did have carts with projectors that they could borrow but it was unclear that classrooms used it consistently. It seemed that only certain teachers who were strongest advocates ended up monopolizing the cart time. All the rooms had in-room audio systems so that teachers' and students' voices were announced via ceiling speakers which was very helpful to instruction.</p>
	<p>I am not in favor of permanent carpeting in the classrooms. I like tile with large area rugs.</p> <p>Conventional.</p>
	<p>Fine! I have questions regarding storage spaces.</p> <p>Great, open lots of window space, light.</p> <p>I liked that some of the classrooms were connected so that classes and teachers can interact with one another. The teachers seemed to like it to. I also liked the desks and how they were arranged.</p>
Class Equipment	<p>Nice. I like the use of shorter, wider lockers than the ones we have. They are not practical for primary school kids with backpacks as big as they are.</p> <p>Nice chairs – great to have classrooms with the same furniture.</p> <p>Technology seemed to be a little behind (no Smart Board, few computers if any in younger children's classrooms).</p> <p>No concerns.</p> <p>Bookcases and shelves were attached to walls to increase floor space.</p> <p>Mobile cabinet carts seem efficient use of space and planning.</p> <p>Permanent shelves have doors for security.</p> <p>All faculty use microphone sound system.</p> <p>Band: exceptional facility for elementary. Stage and practice area off gym.</p> <p>Fine! Tables and chairs in art room and music room did not seem to accommodate the youngest students.</p> <p>The desks were too traditional for me, I would like to see seating that encourages interaction between kids not containment.</p>
Building Architecture / Materials	<p>What can I say? It was just beautiful.</p> <p>Nice job.</p> <p>Beautiful entryway. Loved the wide hallway in the main entranceway.</p> <p>Clean and functional; not inspiring.</p> <p>We will need to use more recycled materials. I like the hallway flooring of maintenance free tiles.</p> <p>Creative/colorful/tile and carpet.</p> <p>More like an early childhood center.</p> <p>Fine! I think the color choice for the grout in the hallways on the first floor made the walls look dirty. I'm not sure the job was done correctly. It looked as though the grout was not cleaned on the cinder blocks.</p> <p>I loved the carpeting in the halls and classrooms. Wonder about the health aspect though ten years down the road...mold?</p>

Drop Off/Pick Up	<p>Very organized and efficient. Seemed to run well.</p> <p>Rear bus circle separating the flow of traffic is appropriate. Gates closing this area is also important. I think that permanent gates (beyond a chain) should be considered. Buses pulling out as students are leaving is a safety issue at this school. Speed of buses and the rear ends of the buses coming over the sidewalk as students are walking near the bus. This is a procedure that should not be allowed.</p> <p>I liked how parents use the front of the building while buses use the back.</p> <p>Liked the separate pre-K/K drop off area, but not sure it would be needed for us, since we have all-day K. A little concerned about the drop-off procedure with children walking along the sidewalks and buses taking off at the same time.</p> <p>Very well organized – excellent.</p> <p>Organized Parents are given tickets to verify they are authorized to pick-up students then proceed to the large educational room/cafeteria to wait. Dismissal is out to the playground. Seemed OK. Very orderly. Where were the bus monitors to greet the students? I was concerned with the buses leaving while students were unloading and entering the building.</p> <p>I am not keen on the kids waiting on the bus to be let into school. I wasn't sure why that was but it seems like a bad way to start the day. My kid would be the antsy one who might stir up a little trouble having to sit there and behave; it seems like a set-up for some kids.</p>
Special Subjects Classrooms A/M/PE	<p>Don't agree with a regulation gym with a curtain for teaching elementary students. Doesn't seem to be developmentally appropriate. The rest of the school is designed with elementary age students best interests a strong consideration.</p> <p>Classroom was good sized and having a secondary, smaller classroom for instrumental lessons is a good idea. The storage was not well-designed for instruments – nothing fit in the cabinets and therefore everything was out, taking up all the counter space. There was no Smart Board (or equivalent) and no staff markings on the whiteboard, making the display of music notation difficult. There was a real need for a second, full-sized music room as the itinerant teacher was forced to use the stage area, which is not ideal for classroom music and also necessitated a constant setting up and taking down of chairs, music stands, etc. to accommodate both music classes and ensembles. The stage area appeared to be adequate, but performing in such a large gymnasium creates problems with sound – according to the music teacher, it is very hard to hear the students performing and they have difficulty hearing each other while performing which makes it nearly impossible to perform in tune and in time with each other. Just as with the other schools we have visited, the biggest obstacle in a school this size is offering performance opportunities to students. This school has one large performance for grade 3 (with only third grade chorus, a recess activity performing) which only part of the school gets to see, and one large performance for grade 4 (with band and chorus participating) which only part of the school gets to see. Despite the large gymnasium, adequate room for the audience is an issue. The logistics involved for dress rehearsals and performances are complicated. The music teacher had a two-page chart just for the custodians in order for each group to have the set-up it needed. Visiting Nayaug reinforced for me what a 'culture'</p>

	<p>change we would have to make in the arts if we had one large school. The many opportunities for performance and participation, the many events that the whole school shares in, building community, would be greatly decreased.</p>
	<p>Part-time employees should have their own teaching spaces. A dividing wall is important. High ceilings create poor acoustics for PE, especially if you can't separate the gym into two or three parts for PE teachers.</p>
	<p>The spaces were fine but they had less time than we currently have which might necessitate having more space.</p>
	<p>Great art room, as I said. I liked how the stage opened to the gym for large group performances. No concerns. Gym was large and could be divided. OK! Great gym space, loved the rock climbing wall, although it was too small, gym had ropes excellent</p>
Support Services Classrooms	<p>OK No concerns. OK!</p>
Food Service	<p>This school had a satellite lunch program. If our school was to allow community use in the kitchen, would this limit functions? Nice to have a separate cafeteria that is not the place where productions occur. Liked the café style of dining area. Nice and open. The cafeteria was functional, but very plain. Not the nicest looking place to eat, but it worked. Well designed kitchen. Excellent resources. Excellent warming units that load front and back. 3 staff plus handy-cap students during lunch 110/5 waves 10:50-1:20. No breakfast service. Cafeteria has windows and doors to playground. All meals are pre-ordered and satellite from H.S. Round tables of 8. All disposable trays/utensils. 23 round tables of 8. Looked OK!</p> <p>Great kitchen, nice open, lighted, café...tables with chairs attached must make for easier storage and clean-up, also keeps kids from moving about and overloading a table, the down side is that it does not allow for movement of seats for spontaneous socialization.</p>

Library/Media	<p>Wonderful space.</p> <p>Media center is a good placement on the main corridor.</p> <p>Great use of space.</p> <p>Liked the low book shelves. Didn't seem to be as many small areas for classes to meet within the library/media center.</p> <p>Well organized and utilized.</p> <p>Impressive/engaging/entrance to courtyard (could use outside seating for education use).</p> <p>Seemed small to me but Linda said it was a good size space.</p>	<p>Was ok. I think it is important to have a large reading area in the library with media center right next to it.</p>
Computer Lab	<p>This was the most impressive part of an impressive building. The lab was set up as an ultimate flexible space. It used tables with wheels on the outside edges of the room and had wireless laptops for use. No data jacks (which I might have had in place anyway) but lots of outlets. Without dedicated wiring, but wireless connections, the room could be quickly reconfigured in many configurations for many uses (small group work, meetings) the glass separating the room from the library proper with small blinds slowed the use of the room privately (close the blinds) or having kids supervised by line of sight (open the blinds).</p>	<p>For a school this size, two computer labs are a must for scheduling with additional laptops on wheels needing for instructional time in regular classrooms.</p> <p>I liked the tables that could be used for work while not on computers.</p> <p>Liked the portable laptops. Thought there should be two separate labs – seems limited for a big school.</p> <p>Given the size of the school, it was surprising that they only had a single computer lab.</p> <p>Laptops are on several carts and a laptop lab off library.</p> <p>OK! No regular computers just laptops. Is this the way we want to go?</p> <p>Was ok, I think they could have liven the room up a bit with something, very sterile looking, not inviting.</p> <p>The computer lab was very nice, and it sounds like it was used a lot.</p>
Multi-Purpose Rooms		<p>Don't like the idea of a stage in the gym. Would continue the problems we have now.</p> <p>Cafeteria is separate from the gym/state. Stage should not be considered an instructional area. Portable stage should be considered fro the cafeteria. There are no multi purpose areas beyond the cafeteria and gym. Additional special program space should be considered. With five lunch waves it severely limits the "special programs" that could go on in the cafeteria.</p> <p>Very nice gym with a stage that is soundproof.</p> <p>Not enough of them.</p> <p>They could use another room upstairs for the older students.</p> <p>Nice space. Tables and chairs were nicely arranged; 8 students to each table.</p> <p>I think this was the one big negative compared to Colchester. The utility of a multi-purpose room is immense.</p>
Office		<p>Large and nice.</p> <p>OK</p>

<p>Well organized. Pleasant and functional.</p> <p>OK! Not as inviting as I would like it. The layout of the counters etc. was not as appealing and welcoming. The office was adequate. The Principal's office and conference room seemed to be isolated and awkwardly positioned. I think having the front office placed so the front of the building, the entrance in particular is in full view of the office staff. This school chose to have a monitor at the front door I think it would be best to have the entrance and office aligned so that visitors coming and going are visible to many.</p>	<p>We currently have 2 beds for 250 students. There were only 3 beds in the nursing area. This does not seem to be enough. External access to the health office is important so that students do not need to walk through the office.</p> <p>Great space.</p> <p>OK – big.</p> <p>Good size.</p> <p>1.5 nurses.</p> <p>OK! Very sterile but a nice large space.</p> <p>Great space, not great lighting.</p>	<p>Playing fields are not directly adjacent to the gym, not a good plan.</p> <p>The school had shared A/V doc camera units. All A/V into one cart that projected and rolled from room to room. Teachers were enthusiastic about this and there was a culture of sharing resources built around those carts. There were not very many mounted Smart Boards in the school and these carts would not support the Smart Boards.</p> <p>The enhanced sound system in each classroom is a goal we should strive for, especially if can be woven into students who use FM receivers to help hearing.</p> <p>Students should not share lockers.</p> <p>Liked how all the downstairs rooms had their own sinks/bathrooms – would promote good hygiene and safety for children not being in the halls.</p> <p>Very surprising that they were unable to put projectors / Smart Boards in every room; very unfortunate.</p> <p>Gym floor was not wood. It is harder to clean and will scuff easily.</p> <p>This is a new building in a large district. Equity was an issue. There were no or few smart boards and possibly other technologies missing because of this issue.</p> <p>The gym and fields were over built for community need. They look fabulous but, not sure if these are useful on a daily basis.</p> <p>It is not so much structure as it is what is done with it to make it warm and inviting place for students, parents and staff. The art show certainly caught our attention.</p> <p>The stage was unbelievable. If that could have been attached to an all purpose room as opposed to the gym, it would allow the gym to keep functioning while the events go on.</p> <p>This school being the newest had the most well thought out computer utility room/head end/data closet. It</p>
Additional		

Comments	<p>was to die for. Large data racks overhead controlling cables, a rack that slowed expansion, and space in front and behind to work on equipment. The room had a large A/C unit dedicated to just cooling that room. There was a small desk area and work room separate from the data closet (so staff could work and repair equipment without the hum of fans and equipment – I highly recommend it this set up!)</p> <p>**The crowning glory of the school was a LOADING DOCK that allowed both high trucks (even 18 wheeler size) and simple cars and vans access to a secure, off loading area.</p> <p>There is still a need for a large room that can be divided like a hotel “ball room”. I envision it being square where you can divide it down the middle for to halves and then in each halve divide it again into fourths. This would allow for Suzuki space, special programs, plays, etc. that don't impact lunch or the gym.</p> <p><b>Security is a must.</b> The Colchester K-2 school's office pass-through was probably the best out of all of the schools.</p> <p>Would like to see common rooms for grade levels or different grades in the same area to share for multi-purpose activities.</p> <p>As previously stated, the design of the building seemed like a large box with classrooms in it and not particularly kid-friendly or inspiring. I'm sure that it is a functional space, but it would design-wise they could have made it more interesting.</p> <p>Toilets are wall mounted making it easier to clean the floor. The mopboards are too low and not made of tile through the building.</p> <p>\$29.7 million, 650 students with capacity of 725.</p> <p>The main hallway was spectacular!</p> <p>I thought it was interesting that the decision to have recess before or after lunch was predicated on the logistics of washing hands before lunch. I would hope we would follow what is developmentally the best policy for the kids well being as opposed to a technical issue in making such a schedule decision.</p> <p>Overall, I liked the design of the school. It had a nice, centralized feeling. The grades weren't too far apart from one another (I heard that the Colchester school was too spread out). I think having two stories is a good idea. The gym was nice and big, and the stage in the gym was a nice feature. I liked the wide hallways.</p>
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